Application No.: 09/927,361

Art Unit 2879

Page 6 of 8

## REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the very thorough consideration given the present application.

Claims 5-12 are now present in this application. Claim 5 is independent. Claims 1-4 have been canceled. Claims 6-12 have been added. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

## Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,631,440 to Robbins. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

While not conceding to the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-4 have been canceled, thereby rendering the rejection thereof moot.

## **Allowable Subject Matter**

The Examiner states that claim 5 is allowed.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the early indication of allowable subject matter in this application.

## Claims 6-12

Claims 6-12 have been added for the Examiner's consideration. Applicant

Amendment filed July 6, 2004

Reply to Office Action of April 5, 2004

Application No.: 09/927,361
Art Unit 2879

Page 7 of 8

submits that claims 6-12 depend, either directly or indirectly, from independent

claim 5, and are therefore allowable based on their dependence from claim 5,

which the Examiner has indicated as allowable.

Consideration and allowance of claims 6-12 are respectfully requested.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed,

accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that

the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be

withdrawn. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the

outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for

allowance.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will

expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone

Percy L. Square, Registration No. 51,084, at (703) 205-8034, in the Washington,

D.C. area.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully

requested.

Amendment filed July 6, 2004 Reply to Office Action of April 5, 2004 Application No.: 09/927,361

Art Unit 2879

Page 8 of 8

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

James T. Eller, Jr.

Reg. No.: 39,538

P.O. Box 747

Falls Church, VA 22040-0747

Telephone: (703) 205-8000

1630-0126P